



News Release

Department of Interior/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuges
61389 Hwy 434/ Lacombe, LA 70445
Telephone 985-882-2000/FAX 985-882-9133

For Immediate Release
Aug. 21st 2014

For More Information:
Brian Pember Refuge Manager (acting)
985-860-6681

2014-2015 Fall Hunts Planned For Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced that Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge will be offering recreational hunting opportunities for the public this fall and winter. Hunts will include an open archery deer season and a lottery waterfowl hunt for adult and youth applicants. These programs have been developed primarily to provide a quality hunting experience for youngsters and adults who may not have the opportunity to hunt elsewhere. Mandalay NWR is located 5 miles southwest of Houma, Louisiana in the vicinity of Lake Hatch. Access to the refuge is by boat only, as there are no roads on the refuge.

Archery Deer Hunt

The archery only hunt will be held concurrently with the full State of Louisiana Deer season, October 1, 2014 through October 15, 2014* (bucks only) and October 16, 2014 through February 15, 2015. Bow hunting will be according to the regulations of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, except where refuge rules are more specific. The daily possession limit will be one Buck only from October 1, 2014 through October 15, 2014 and one either sex deer; from October 16, 2014 through February 15, 2015*. Hunters will be required to obtain a Self-Clearing Check-in PERMIT daily at a Refuge Self-clearing Check Station before hunting. AFTER HUNTING THE COMPLETED Self-clearing Check-out Permit SHALL BE DEPOSITED AT ONE OF THE CHECK STATIONS. Only portable stands may be used and must be dismantled or removed from trees after each days use. A stand or blind left on the refuge overnight may be used by any hunter on a first-come, first-served basis. No baiting is allowed. Hunters may use the Refuge only between 4:00 AM and one hour after sunset daily. Archery hunting will be closed north of the Intracoastal Waterway until noon on Lottery Waterfowl Hunt days during the 2014-2015 State Waterfowl Season and on November 8th and 9th 2014 (State Waterfowl Youth Days).

Incidental take of feral hogs is permitted.

*State Regulations for Area 9

Lottery Waterfowl Hunt

Hunts will be held on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the Louisiana waterfowl hunting season. State Youth Waterfowl Hunt days are on November 8th and 9th, 2014. Lottery hunts are scheduled to begin on November 15th, 2014 and continue through January 24th, 2015. Five permittees will be chosen for each hunt date by lottery drawing from applications received at the refuge office by close of business on Wednesday, October 15, 2014. Five floating blinds with boat hides have been placed on the refuge for this program. Blinds have a maximum capacity of 3 persons and permittees will need to furnish their own boat, decoys, and necessary equipment. Hunters may apply as either a Youth or Adult Group. Youth Group applicants will receive preference in the drawing.

Requirements for Adult Groups are as follows:

1. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age by the final application date (Oct. 15, 2014).
2. One adult will apply and he/she will be allowed two guests.
3. All guests under 17 years of age must be accompanied by an adult supervisor (21 years or older).

Requirements for Youth Groups are as follows:

- One adult supervisor (21 years or older) will apply along with a youth co-applicant. Only one adult will supervise the co-applicant youth hunter and up to one additional youth guest (allowed: one adult and one youth or one adult and two youths).
- Youth hunters are limited to youths between the ages of 8 and 17 years at the time of the drawing.
- Exception: Only youths between 8 and 15 years old will be accepted for the State Youth Waterfowl Days (November 8th and 9th, 2014).
- The adult supervisor will be allowed to harvest his or her limit of waterfowl (except on State Youth Waterfowl Days), however primary emphasis will be placed on the youth(s) harvesting their limit(s) first.

To apply for a Mandalay NWR Lottery Waterfowl Hunt permit you must submit a completed Mandalay NWR Lottery Hunt Application form. The application form is available at the Refuge headquarters and on the Refuge website. Please see "Mandalay NWR Waterfowl Lottery Hunt Application Process" link on our website, as the form has changed. An original or copy of the form may be filled out and submitted. Applications must be received at the Mandalay NWR headquarters by 4:30 PM on Wednesday, October 15th, 2014. Applications may be submitted by U.S. Mail, hand delivery, fax 337-828-0061, or e-mailed to brian_pember@fws.gov

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The National Wildlife Refuge System, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is the world's premier system of public lands and waters set aside to conserve America's fish, wildlife and plants. Since President Theodore Roosevelt designated Florida's Pelican Island as the first wildlife refuge in 1903, the System has grown to more than 150 million acres, 552 national wildlife refuges and other units of the Refuge System, plus 37 wetland management districts.

For more information contact: Brian Pember Refuge Manager (acting) at 985-860-6681